

EXHIBIT: IV.B.

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: December 13, 2006

RE: Chapter 115, Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel

Background: Chapter 115: Certification, Authorization, and Approval of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the State Board of Education and Department of Education underwent Legislative review and approval during the second regular session of the 121st Maine Legislature and was adopted by the State Board on April 14, 2004.

The State Board committee for certification and higher education has, over the past few months, revisited Chapter 115 to address requests that would effect changes and provide clarifications to the rule.

Proposed amendments to Chapter 115, Part II include the addition of a new certificate, the Interim Superintendent Certificate, which would allow a school superintendent whose superintendent certificate had lapsed to be employed in a school district as an interim superintendent for a period of up to two years; the removal of reference to the current testing requirement for a targeted need certificate for prelingually deaf certification candidates; the inclusion that community college courses are acceptable with a minimum grade of "C" and part of an articulated agreement with a regionally accredited four-year college; the waiving of student teaching with a waiver to teach from the Commissioner and a support team; the addition of a new endorsement - Early Childhood (Birth to School age 5) and, the addition of clarifying language that was inadvertently deleted in a prior rule revision in the following teacher endorsements; middle level, foreign language, literacy specialist, and career and technical.

Chapter 115 has completed the public hearing; comments have been considered and responded to.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education provisionally adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 115, Parts I and II, in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

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